

Message Text

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16

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 102229Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2414

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE QUITO 5990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EC

SUBJECT: GOE CHANGES: MORE FACT, MORE RUMOR

REF: QUITO 5958

1. CONTINUING ITS SERIES OF UPPER-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES, THE GOE ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO REPLACE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ PALACIOUS WITH ANOTHER COLONEL OF THE ARMY ENGINEERS, RAUL PUMA VELASCO. AS NOTED REFTTEL, THIS CHANGE HAD BEEN WIDELY RUMORED. IT IS STILL BEING TOUTED AS ONLY THE FIRST OF SEVERAL CABINET CHANGES, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF WHICH WOULD BE THE TRANSFER OF NATURAL RESOURCES CHIEF JARRIN. THIS IS SAID TO BE HELD PENDING HIS RETURN FROM THE CURRENT OPEC MEETING IN VIENNA.

2. IN GUAYAQUIL, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR RADM RENA'N OLMEDO IS STILL BEING OFFERED AS JARRIN'S LIKELY SUCCESSOR. A NEW TWIST HAS RADM JORGE ORTEGA REPLACING OLMEDO AS GOVENOR. THESE VERSIONS HAVE A CERTAIN LOGIC: THE RUMORED SHIFTS WOULD KEEP TWO NAVY POSTS IN THE HANDS OF THAT SERVICE; WOULD SATISFY OLMEDO'S NOT-UNREASONABLE URGE FOR A MORE SENIOR JOB; AND WOULD PROVIDE A PLACE FOR THE POPULAR

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ORTEGA, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM A YEAR OF WASHINGTON

ATTACHE DUTY (FOR HEALTH REASONS) AND STILL LACKING A PERMANENT SLOT. ON THE OTHER HAND, DEPARTING UNDER-SECRETARY OF FINANCE COL. RUBEN AYALA IS OBVIOUSLY HEADED FOR A JOB OF SOME RESPONSIBILITY AND IS ALSO BEING RUMORED FOR THE GUAYAS GOVERNORSHIP. THE EVENTUAL SOLUTION MAY INVOLVE HIS INSTEAD ASSUMING THE GUAYAQUIL MILITARY ZONE COMMAND, A JOB FOR WHICH HE IS ALSO BEING MENTIONED.

3. OUTGOING PUBLIC WORKS CHIEF RODRIGUEZ PALACIOS IS TRANSFERRING TO ARGENTINA AS MILITARY ATTACHE. FIVE OTHER NEW ATTACHES HAVE ALSO BEEN NAMED, INCLUDING FORMER UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE COL. OLIVERIO VASCONEZ (TO CHILE).
BREWSTER

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